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ESPERANTO NOTES.

IN the propaganda of every cause slight reactions are bound to mark the course of progress. In that manner new life and stimulus are added to the movement with results generally beneficial. Within the last two or three months we have heard of the "difficulties" of Esperanto. In response to this we take pleasure in printing the experience of Dr. Kenneth W. Millican recently contributed to *The Journal of the American Medical Association*:

"If not too late, I should like to add a little practical experience to the hornet's nest of argument that Dr. W. J. Shee has drawn upon himself by sweeping statements in reference to Esperanto. In the early part of this year there drifted into this office a circular couched in a language not generally familiar. A few seconds' consideration indicated it to be the new international auxiliary language, Esperanto, and it was promptly sent to my desk to struggle with. I knew nothing whatever of Esperanto, and, indeed, entertained very much the same kind of idea that Dr. Shee has expressed as to its being a "hotch-potch" and in every way unworthy of consideration by one with "a smattering of classics and the more generally used modern languages." It was "up to me," however, to decipher the communication, so I promptly went out and bought a book, "First Lessons in Esperanto," costing a few pence, and proceeded to learn the language, using only the time occupied in the car between my office and my residence, going and coming. The grammar was easily mastered, consisting as it does only of certain prefixes, suffixes, and terminations of the parts of speech. It took me, in all, perhaps an hour and a half to commit it to memory. What then remained was to acquire a vocabulary of roots. A little pocket vocabulary, costing a few cents more, placed those also at my disposition. The circular was translated by me within forty-eight hours from the time that I first opened an Esperanto book. Within ten days I was reading aloud in English in the evenings to my household a novel written in Esperanto. Within three weeks I had written in Esperanto a twenty-page article

on the "Professional Secret in the United States," and had mailed it to Dr. Mikolajski, editor of the Esperanto medical journal, "*Voĉo de Kuracistoj*," published in Lwow, Austro-Galicia, receiving in due course notice of its acceptance. I have just heard from the editor that it will appear in the forthcoming issue of that journal. I wish to ask whether there exists any language, ancient or modern, in which within three weeks, using less than an hour a day for study, such a result could have been attained, even by an accomplished philologist? I may add that I have the satisfaction of being in correspondence with physicians of several nationalities by means of Esperanto. I am no despiser of Greek or Latin or the modern tongues. I still amuse myself by turning occasionally to my Horace, my Terence, my Virgil, my Catullus, and others, as well as to my Æschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Homer; but I can safely say that, with all the years spent at school and at Cambridge over Greek and Latin—and that, with some little love of these languages, which are a delight to me even to this day—I have not one-fourth of the proficiency in either of them that I have managed to acquire in Esperanto in the odd moments of a busy editorial career inside ten months. It is the ease with which any man of moderate intelligence—without any teacher, and using only fragments of his leisure, over a book or two that he can easily carry in his pocket—may master this language, that will bring it speedily to that general acceptance as an auxiliary tongue to each man in addition to his own, to which it is already moving by leaps and bounds."